

Pentagon Winds Bio  
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# The United States Army Field Band

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
*Washington, DC*

## THE PENTAGON WINDS

The **Pentagon Winds**, an official ensemble of The United States Army Field Band of Washington, DC, performs in colleges and universities throughout the nation. Originally formed in 1989 as part of the Field Band's College Clinic Team, this woodwind quintet was reestablished as the Pentagon Winds in 1999. The group was a featured ensemble on the prestigious 2001 Kennedy Center Honors Recital. In addition to recital performances, its members present clinics on their individual instruments and offer coaching in ensemble playing techniques. Their repertoire includes major quintet literature, as well as their own arrangements and transcriptions.

**Staff Sergeant Natalie Boyd, flute**, is from Seminole, Florida. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from the University of South Florida and a Master of Music in Flute Performance from the University of North Texas. While in Texas, she was piccoloist in the Fort Worth Pops, and Garland, Irving, and University of North Texas symphony orchestras. A third-prize winner and two-time finalist of the National Flute Association's Piccolo Artist Competition, she is also the first-prize winner of the Florida Flute Association's Young Artist Competition. SSG Boyd joined the Field Band in 2001 and currently plays piccolo in the Concert Band. She was a featured soloist with the band in Spring 2002. Her teachers include Kim McCormick and Terri Sundberg.

**Staff Sergeant Jennifer Gabrysh, oboe**, is from Royal Oak, Michigan. She received a Bachelor of Music in Oboe Performance from the University of Michigan and a Master of Music in Oboe Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University. As a graduate student, SSG Gabrysh was a member of the Carpenter Woodwind Quintet, a two-year program funded by the Carpenter Foundation in order to promote awareness of classical music in schools throughout Virginia. In addition to its recital performances, the quintet was chosen as a semi-finalist in the 1998 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition. Prior to joining the Field Band in 2001, SSG Gabrysh resided in Richmond, Virginia, where she performed with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra and toured with the New Sousa Band. Her teachers include Kristy Meretta, Harry Sargous, Kristen Beene, and Philip Teachey.

**Staff Sergeant Melissa Johnson, clarinet**, graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy and holds a bachelor's degree and Performer's Certificate from The Eastman School of Music. In 1998, she earned a Master of Music in Clarinet Performance from the University of Michigan. SSG Johnson has been featured in a solo recital broadcast on National Public Radio and received the Woodwind Award as part of the WAMSO Competition in Minneapolis. She has performed with ensembles in Europe and Japan, and as principal clarinetist in orchestras and festivals including Interlochen's World Youth Symphony, Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, Heidelberg Castle Festival, Traverse Symphony Orchestra, and at Northwestern University. SSG Johnson joined the Field Band in 1998 and has been a featured soloist with the Concert Band. Her teachers include Deborah Chodacki, Kenneth Grant, and Russ Dragon. SSG Johnson is on the faculty at Loyola College in Baltimore.

**Sergeant First Class J. Daniel Bowlds, bassoon**, a native of Lexington, Kentucky, earned his Bachelor of Arts in Bassoon Performance from Missouri Western State College. While there, he was the principal bassoonist for the Missouri All-Collegiate Band and the Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia National Assembly. SFC Bowlds received a graduate assistantship at Kent State University where he earned a Master of Music in Bassoon Performance and won the university's concerto competition. SFC Bowlds' instructors include Richard Yeager, David Debolt, and Linda Harwell.

**Sergeant First Class Alan White, horn**, earned a Bachelor of Music in Education from the Peabody Conservatory and a Master of Music in Horn Performance from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. After touring with the American Wind Symphony, he spent a year performing with La Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de México in Toluca, Mexico. In 1994, SFC White performed with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra in Cape Town, South Africa. Since joining the Field Band in 1989, he has performed frequently on the Field Band's Chamber Music Series, been featured in the educational video *Horn Playing: Past and Present*, and served as a horn clinician. SFC White's teachers include Robert Pierce, Peter Landgren, and Michael Hatfield.